

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PANAMA 02368 021805Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----021809Z 037520 /50

R 021656Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1344

S E C R E T PANAMA 2368

NODIS

STADIS//////////

FOR SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PN
SUBJECT: TORRIJOS TRAVEL AND CASTRO VISIT

REF: STATE 069680

1. TORRIJOS' PLANNED VISIT TO LIBYA WAS ANNOUNCED SOME TIME AGO. FULL DETAILS, INCLUDING LIST OF 49 PERSONS WHO WILL ACCOMPANY HIM, WAS PUBLISHED NIGHT BEFORE RECEIPT OF REFTEL. THUS I JUDGED IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE THROUGH ANY U.S. REPRESENTATIONS TO GET THE GENERAL TO ABORT THIS SCHEME. INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN LARGE VOLUME OF PROTEST THAT HAS ERUPTED AS RESULT OF GOP ANNOUNCEMENT. RADIO STATIONS HAVE BEEN INUNDATED BY PHONE CALLS, MANY ANONYMOUS BUT NOT ALL, ASKING WHY GENERAL GOING TO NORTH AFRICA, WHY IN TIME OF SEVERE AUSTERITY SUCH EXTRAVAGANT JOURNEY BEING UNDERTAKEN, ETC., ETC. THIS HAS FORCED TORRIJOS TO MAKE LONG AND HIGHLY DEFENSIVE STATEMENT RE HIS TRIP NOTING ITS QUOTE WORKING UNQUOTE NATURE AND FACT THAT LIBYAN HOSTS WILL BE FOOTING MOST BILLS, ETC.

2. REAL NAME OF THE GAME AS FAR AS THIS GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED
SECRET

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PAGE 02 PANAMA 02368 021805Z

IS MONEY ABOVE ALL. TORRIJOS HOPES TO HIT KHADAFY FOR LOAN AND GRANT OF UP TO TWO HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS--TO HELP PAY SNOWBALLING DEBT BURDEN AND TO KEEP MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS GOING. WE THINK THIS FIGURE IS HIGHLY UNREALISTIC AND THAT TORRIJOS WILL BE LUCKY TO GET AS MUCH AS FIFTY MILLION. AND THE LORD KNOWS WHAT STRINGS MAY BE TIED TO THAT. THERE ARE OF COURSE OTHER ELEMENTS INVOLVED--SUCH AS TORRIJOS' QUOTE WORLD

STATEMAN UNQUOTE IMAGE, NON-ALIGNED SOLIDARITY AND THE LIKE.
BUT MONEY IS THE KEY.

3. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT WHAT HAS BECOME MAJOR STORY HERE
IS GETTING SHORT SHRIFT IN THE U.S. PRESS. THAT WILL PROBABLY
CHANGE SOMEWHAT ONCE THE PANAMANIAN LEADER ACTUALLY TREADS THE
LIBYAN SANDS. WE WILL BE INTERESTED IN HOW STORY IS PLAYED
THERE AND WHAT CONGRESSIONALL REACTIONS EMERGE.

4. POSSIBLE CASTRO TRIP IS OF QUITE A DIFFERENT NATURE. CLEARLY
IF IT WERE CARRIED OUT OUR JOB OF SEALING A NEW TREATY WOULD BE
INCREDIBLY MORE DIFFICULT. MANY PANAMANIAN KNOW THIS QUITE
WELL. AND WE SHALL, IN THE DAYS AHEAD, BE MAKING SURE THAT TOR-
RIJOS AND THOSE AROUND HIM UNDERSTAND THE IMPLICATIONS CLEARLY.
WE WILL BE REPORTING LATER ON THESE MOVES.
JORDEN

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 PANAMA 02368 022018Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----022021Z 038609 /41

O 021656Z APR 77 CORRECTED FOR PRECEDENCE ONLY
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1344

S E C R E T PANAMA 2368

NODIS//////////

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JORDEN

NOTE: PRECEDENCE RAISED TO IMMEDIATE PER PANAMA SVC 0758S.

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PANAMA02368
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Litigation History:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, STADIS
Page Count: 3
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Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, STADIS
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2920470
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TORRIJOS TRAVEL AND CASTRO VISIT
TAGS: PFOR, PEPR, OVIP, EAID, PN, PQ, LY, CU, US, (CASTRO RUZ, FIDEL), (TORRIJOS HERRERA, OMAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
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22 May 2009
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